

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 07859 180059Z

11

ACTION EB-11

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USLO PEKING

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1538

UNCLAS HONG KONG 7859

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM ORIGINALLY SENT FROM AG OFFICER HONG  
KONG ACTION USDA/FAS WASHDC ON 12JULY74, NOW BEING REPEATED  
TO PEKING ACTION SECTATE INFO

UNCLAS HONG KONG 7859

TOFAS 121

FROM AG OFFICER FOR NOVOTNY, G&F DIV

SUBJECT: EARLY REPORTS OF CHINA'S GRAIN HARVEST HIGHLY  
FAVORABLE

1. OFFICIAL STATEMENTS GIVING PRELIMINARY RESULTS PRC'S  
HARVEST OF WINTER GRAINS IN EIGHT PROVINCES AND TWO MUNICIPALITIES  
GENERALLY CLAIM RECORD OR BUMPER HARVESTS. (TERM SUMMER-  
HARVESTED OR WINTER GRAINS INCLUDES WHEAT, BARLEY, BROAD  
BEANS AND PEAS.)

2. HIGHLIGHTS BY REGIONS, AS FOLLOWS: (NORTH) HOPEH--  
RECORD HARVEST OF WINTER GRAINS (20 PERCENT ABOVE 1973 RECORD  
HARVEST) IN SPITE OF SEVERE DROUGHT. HARVESTED WHEAT AREA  
REACHED 2.87 MILLION HECTARES EVEN THOUGH THERE PROBABLY WAS  
SOME ABANDONMENT BECAUSE OF DRY WEATHER. PEKING--20-PERCENT  
INCREASE IN WINTER CROPS OVER 1973, TIENTSIN--20-PERCENT  
INCREASE IN WHEAT AND BARELY PRODUCTION ON 19-PERCENT  
INCREASED AREA. (INNER MONGOLIA'S APPROX. 650,000 HA UNDER  
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PAGE 02 HONG K 07859 180059Z

SPRING WHEAT REPORTED IN QUOTE FINE GROWING CONDITION UNQUOTE.)

3. (EAST) KIANGSU--GOOD WINTER GRAIN HARVEST, 10 PERCENT OVER 1973. CREDIT GIVEN TO USE OF IMPROVED SEED AND TO IRRIGATION IN OVERCOMING DROUGHT EFFECTS; ALSO GRAIN AREA 330,000 HA (13 PERCENT) LARGER THAN 1973. CHEKIANG--40-PERCENT INCREASE IN WINTER GRAINS AND 30-PERCENT IN RAPE (ALL-TIME HIGH). FUKIEN--BUMPER HARVEST OF WINTER GRAINS, 20 PERCENT ABOVE 1973. SHANTUNG--(CHANGWEI ADMIN. REGION) RECORD YIELDS ON 600,000 HA OF WHEAT.

4. (CENTRAL-SOUTH) HONAN--(NO. 1 WHEAT PROVINCE) WHEAT OUTPUT HIGHER THAN 1973 RECORD HARVEST, IN SPITE OF DROUGHT. LARGE PART OF WHEAT IRRIGATED AND 90 PERCENT SOW WITH IMPROVED SEED AMONG FACTORS OFFSETTING DROUGHT EFFECTS. HUPEH--QUOTE FAIRLY GOOD SUMMER GRAIN HARVEST UNQUOTE. (SUPPRESSED ENTHUSIASM.) KWANGTUNG--(MINOR WHEAT AND RAPESEED PRODUCER.) WHEAT PRODUCTION 60 PERCENT ABOVE 1973 AND RAPE, NEARLY 200 PERCENT.

5. (SOUTHWEST) SZECHWAN--OUTPUT OF WINTER GRAINS ON 3 MILLION HA WAS 10 PERCENT ABOVE 1973. (RAPE ON 330,000 HA WAS 5 PERCENT ABOVE 1973.)

6. COMMENT: THESE CLAIMS, COVERING APPROXIMATELY HALF OF PRC'S WHEAT AREA, PAINT HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC PICTURE OF 1974 WHEAT HARVEST THUS FAR. COMPLICATING FACTOR IS INCLUSION OF BARLEY, BROAD BEANS AND PEAS IN CLAIMED INCREASED FOR WINTER GRAINS WHICH COULD MASK--BUT ONLY IN PART--POSSIBLY LESS IMPROESSIVE PERFORMANCE OF WHEAT COMPARED TO OTHER WINTER GRAINS. IMPROESSIVE PRODUCTION CLAIMS, IN FACE OF GENERALLY DRY WEATHER LAST WINTER AND SPRING, IMPLY CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS OF INPUTS SUCH AS EXPANDED SOWINGS AND IRRIGATION, INCREASED AREA UNDER IMPROVED SEED, AND INCREASED INPUTS OF FERTILIZER, INSECTICIDES AND LABOR IN OFFSETTING DROUGHT EFFECTS. RESULTS ACTUALLY LESS MIRACULOUS THAN THEY APPEAR BECAUSE OF GENERALLY GOOD SOIL OISTURE CONDITIONS IN DRY AREAS.

7. WHILE RESULTS THUS FAR APPEAR HIGHLY FAVORABLE, MUST UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 HONG K 07859 180059Z

WAIT UNITL RESULTS OTHER HALF PRC'S WHAT AREA ARE IN AND REFINEMENT OF WHEAT VIS-A-VIS TOTAL WINTER GRAINS BEFORE MEANINGFUL ESTIMATE 1974 WHEAT CROP CAN BE MADE.  
CHAMPEAU  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

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